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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

James Terrell of Billings, a senior in music at Montana State University, has won first place in northwest regional auditions of the San Francisco Opera at Seattle.

Terrell, a student of MSU Professor John Lester, will participate in a seven-week workshop with the opera company in San Francisco this summer. He then will compete nationally with winners in the opera's other regional auditions.

Terrell has appeared in several theatrical productions at MSU including "The Fantasticks" and "Girl of the Golden West." He played the role of El Gallo in "The Fantasticks" when an MSU troupe presented the musical on a USO tour of military bases in the Orient.

Judy Fisher of Blackfoot, Ida., who played the Girl in that production was second alternate winner in the San Francisco Opera auditions in 1963. She is the only other winner from MSU in that competition.

Last spring Terrell played the part of Jack Rance in the MSU production of "Girl of the Golden West" and last summer he sang in Don Pasquale at the University of Washington in Seattle.

Contestants in the opera auditions were required to sing selections in at least three different languages. Terrell sang arias in Italian, French, German and English, including "Il Balien" from Il Trovatore by Verdi, "The Toreador Song" from Carmen by Bizet, "Eri Tu" from The Masked Ball by Verdi, "Serenade" from Don Giovanni by Mozart, "Vision Fugitive" from Herodiade by Massenet and "The Evening Star" from Tannhauser by Wagner.

While at MSU Terrell has been a member of University Choir, Jubileers and Opera Workshop.

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